

**Draft Summary of the Engineering and Operations Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
June 28, 2002**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted the Engineering and Operations Work Group meeting on June 28, 2002 via videoconference and conference call.

A summary of the discussions, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present an informational summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting.

Attachment 1 Meeting Agenda

Attachment 2 Meeting Attendees

Attachment 3 The Guidance for Study of Cumulative Impacts and Impacts on Species Listed Under the Federal Endangered Species Act document, dated June 21, 2002

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the Engineering and Operations Work Group meeting. The meeting objectives and action items were discussed. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees and their affiliations are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively.

May 24, 2002 Meeting Summary and Action Items

A summary of the May 24, 2002 Engineering and Operations Work Group is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

Action Item #EO48: Determine to what degree, if any, FERC requires evaluation of projects within or adjacent to the Project Boundary such as the proposed water diversion for Paradise.

Status: Curtis Creel with DWR reported that he discussed this action item with Ward Tabor, legal counsel with DWR. Ward explained that projects adjacent to the Project boundary but not associated with Oroville operations will be considered in the context of cumulative impacts.

Action Item #EO49: Discuss Fluvial 12 modeling with appropriate DWR and Consulting Team members to determine data needs.

Status: This discussion will occur during the next Environmental/Engineering & Operations Joint Task Force Meeting.

Action Item #EO50: Provide update to the Engineering and Operations Work Group on watershed modeling discussions.

Status: This action item is an agenda item for this meeting (see discussion below).

Action Item #EO51: Discuss watershed modeling information with Engineering and Operations Task Force and report back to Engineering and Operations Work Group.

Status: The Task Force meeting scheduled for June 20, 2002 was cancelled. Curtis Creel would like to defer a discussion at the Work Group level until after conferring with DWR Flood Management staff.

Proposed Water Diversion Clarification

Ed Craddock provided an update on the proposed water diversion under consideration by Butte County and explained work on a major conjunctive use project for the County. He added that discussions were occurring within the CALSIM II modeling work group related to watersheds within the mountain counties, and the Bulletin 160 modeling effort has begun to revise portions of

CALSIM II related to upper watershed activities. He was curious how this effort factors into the Oroville Facilities Relicensing process. Curtis responded that he talked to DWR staff and learned they are looking at changes within some of the mountain county areas including changes in land use and population growth. While DWR staff is evaluating the American River and Shasta basins, Curtis indicated he is not clear if they are looking at the Feather River basin. He suggested that his staff will seek to further understand what upstream use changes are under consideration that will be factored into the future development of CALSIM II.

Cumulative Effects/ESA Document

The Guidance for Study of Cumulative Impacts and Impacts on Species Listed Under the Federal Endangered Species Act document, dated June 21, 2002, was e-mailed to the Engineering and Operations Work Group prior to the meeting and is included as Attachment 3 of this summary.

Curtis explained that the Environmental Work Group initially took the lead on this activity and initiated a Task Force to develop a guidance document to assist Study Plan authors in the development of Study Plan tasks to consider cumulative impacts and Endangered Species Act issues. He explained that although the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) participated in the Task Force meetings, both agencies believe the document does not completely address ESA effects. FWS and NMFS committed to submitting separate letters to DWR containing their guidance on ESA and cumulative impacts within 30 days.

While the other Task Force participants were in general agreement with the language contained in the draft document, the Facilitator explained they agreed there was little to gain in continued editing and decided to release the document in its current form to assist other Work Groups and Study Plan authors prepare draft cumulative impacts and ESA effected Study Plan tasks.

The Facilitator explained that the draft document is being distributed to all Work Groups, and they may choose to adjust the draft guidance document to suit their individual needs as long as the changes are not inconsistent with the June 21, 2002 draft document. If inconsistencies arise within the individual Work Groups that cannot be resolved there, the issue will be presented to the Plenary Group for resolution. Curtis suggested that the Engineering and Operations Work Group review the document and consider if it has an impact on Engineering and Operations Study Plans. The participants agreed to review the document and provide any comments at the next Engineering and Operations Work Group meeting.

Update on Plenary Group Activities

Curtis updated Work Group participants on Plenary Group activities related to the draft Modeling Protocols submitted for comment at the previous Plenary Group meeting; the Modeling Protocols were also distributed to the Engineering and Operations Work Group. He stated that no comments on the draft Modeling Protocol have been submitted. Curtis explained that the Modeling Protocol Task Force is currently working to develop summaries of each model and will distribute the model summaries when all are completed. Ken Kules of Metropolitan Water District asked if other Work Groups have identified modeling coordinators as described in the draft protocol. Curtis agreed to check with the other RAMs to identify modeling coordinators from other Work Groups.

Update on Engineering and Operations/Environmental Task Force

As noted earlier in the summary, the joint Task Force meeting scheduled for July 20, 2002 was cancelled; the joint Task Force will meet in August.

Watershed Modeling Discussion Update

Ed Craddock and Tuan Bui of DWR met with United States Geological Survey (USGS) and DWR Flood Management staff to discuss watershed modeling development. Tuan Bui updated the Engineering and Operations Work Group on the Precipitation Runoff Model System (PRMS). He explained that PRMS is a model that predicts changes to runoff based on land use and climate changes. It still remains unclear whether watershed modeling will be a useful tool in the relicensing process.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the Engineering and Operations Work Group is July 26, 2002. The participants agreed that the conference call/teleconference format and the 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. time are working well for Engineering and Operations Work Group participants.

Next Meeting

The Engineering and Operations Work Group agreed their next meeting will be:

Date: July 26, 2002

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Oroville Field Division, Oroville and Joint Operations Center or via conference call.
The call-in number is 1-877-708-3420, and the passcode is 429617.

Action Items

The following list of action items identified by the Engineering and Operations Work Group includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action and due date.

Action Item #EO52: Check with DWR planning on how issues of upper watersheds are factored into CALSIM II.

Responsible: DWR/consulting team

Due Date: July 26, 2002

Action Item #EO53: Review Cumulative Effects Approach/ESA Guidance document and provide comments relative to Engineering and Operations Study Plans

Responsible: Engineering and Operations Work Group participants

Due Date: July 26, 2002

Action Item #EO54: Check with other RAMS to identify appropriate modeling coordinators.

Responsible: DWR/consulting team

Due Date: July 26, 2002

Action Item #EO55: Provide input to Curtis Creel for development of watershed modeling issues summary.

Responsible: Engineering and Operations Work Group participants/DWR

Due Date: July 15, 2002/July 22, 2002

**Department of Water Resources
Oroville Facilities Relicensing
Engineering and Operations Work Group
Proposed Agenda**

June 28, 2002
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Oroville Field Division
460 Glen Drive
Oroville, California

AND
Joint Operations Center
3310 El Camino
Sacramento, California

Desired Outcomes

- *Update on Action Items*
- *Update on Plenary Activities and Response to Protocol*
- *Update on Joint Engineering and Operations/Environmental Task Force*
- *Update on Watershed Modeling Discussions*
- *Next Steps*

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. May 24, 2002 Meeting Summary and Action Items
 - Proposed Water Diversion Clarification
- III. Cumulative Effects/ESA Document
- IV. Update on Plenary Activities
 - Response to Modeling Protocol
- V. Update on Engineering and Operations/Environmental Task Force
 - Outcome of Fluvial 12 discussion
- VI. Watershed Modeling Discussion Update
 - Engineering and Operations Task Force Input
- VII. Next Steps

**Engineering and Operations Work Group Meeting Attendees
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)**

Lori Brown	Department of Water Resources
Rashid Ahmad	Department of Water Resources
Craig Jones	State Water Contractors
Ken Kules	Metropolitan Water District
Ed Craddock	Butte County
Curtis Creel	Department of Water Resources
Robert Hughes	California Department of Fish and Game
Don Marquez	Kern County Water Agency
Kathy Peterson	OWID
Jill Miller	Harza/EDAW Team
Patti Kroen	Facilitator
Mary Keller	Sutter County
Ted Alvarez	Department of Water Resources
Tuan Bui	Department of Water Resources
Tracy Hinojosa	Department of Water Resources
Stuart Edell	Butte County Public Works
Laurine White	US Army Corps of Engineers
Frank Caunt	Butte County Water Commission

**The Guidance for Study of Cumulative Impacts and Impacts on Species Listed Under the
Federal Endangered Species Act Document
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)**